

MINUTES
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CENTRAL LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH SOUTH SANDY CHURCH,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA,

SEPTEMBER 29th and 30th, and OCTOBER 1st, 1898.

R. E. HOWARD, Clerk,
Duncanville, Ala.

F. M. HOBSON, Mod.,
Hagler, Ala.

MINUTES.

The ministers and delegates composing the Central Liberty Association met in its 14th session, on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1898, with South Sandy Church. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. B. Sumner, from the 5th chapter and 16th verse of St. Matthew—"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Adjourned one hour for dinner, which was prepared and at the church, after which the delegates assembled in the house.

The former moderator, Rev. F. M. Hobson, took his seat and offered prayer. Called the body to order and declared it partially organized and ready for business.

Called for the letters from the various churches. The letters were presented and read by brethren R. E. Howard and S. P. Sumner, and the names of delegates enrolled as follows :

Haysop—J. W. Hubbard, John Hubbard, S. C. Hubbard, †S. D. Thomson, †J. W. Murphy.

South Sandy—S. P. Sumner, W. L. Dockery, H. J. Dockery, G. B. Dockery.

Union—Rev. J. R. Wiggins, J. M. Greathouse, J. B. Keeton, †M. E. Doss, B. F. Kirkley, W. T. Hallman (alternate).

Pleasant Hill—F. M. Johnston, M. C. Hester, †L. A. Jenkins, †B. F. Coaley, J. A. Johnston (alternate).

Mount Pleasant—J. M. Geddy, W. M. Tingle, †S. D. Geddy, †J. W. Snipes (alt.)

Shady Grove—R. Mathews, Carsner Mathews, R. E. Howard.

Mulberry—J. W. Caddell, A. J. Mayfield, †B. A. Caddell, Harvey Hallman.

Pine Flat—†Norman Morrison, W. C. Morrison, †B. C. Latner, D. Johnson (alt.)

Liberty—Rev. F. M. Hobson, J. H. Deweese, C. T. Ragland.

On motion the vacancies of delegates were filled by the brethren present—Mt. Pleasant, W. P. Phifer; Mulberry, Rev. A. D. Fikes.

A letter was presented from Spring Hill church, which was read and names of delegates enrolled as follows: †J. M. Barnett, †W. Lake, †B. F. Boggs, †R. M. Arnold, †A. J. Evans.

Went into the election of a Moderator and Clerk to serve during the session, which was done by ballot, and resulted in the choice of Rev. F. M. Hobson moderator, and R. E. Howard clerk.

Read the constitution, abstract of principles, and rules of decorum.

The Moderator appointed the following committees :

Arrangement of Business—J. M. Greathouse, Rev. T. B. Sumner, J. H. Deweese, with the Moderator and Clerk.

Finance—J. W. Caddell, S. P. Sumner, J. W. Hubbard.

Devotion—C. T. Ragland, Samuel Hubbard, W. M. Tingle, with the deacons of South Sandy Church.

Documents—T. B. Sumner, A. D. Fikes, W. M. Tingle.

Called for report on devotion:

Prayer-meeting to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock led by A.J. Mayfield; Preaching at 11 by Rev A. D. Fikes.

On motion, adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Friday morning at 9 o'clock, met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer meeting conducted by Bro. A. J. Mayfield. After prayers, a short recess was taken, then reassembled in the house. The Moderator called the body to order and offered prayer.

Called for report on Arrangement of Business, which was as follows:

We, your Committee on Arrangements, beg leave to report that you take up and transact business in the following order:

1. Open the door for correspondence
2. Return correspondence.
3. Call the roll and mark absentees.
4. Call for report on missions.
5. Call for report on Sabbath schools.
6. Call for report on education.
7. Call for report on temperance.
8. Call for report on finance.
9. Call for report of the committee on documents.

10. We suggest that you consent as a body to the sending out of a missionary to preach throughout the Central Liberty Association, as an evangelist.

11. Open the door for general business. R. E. HOWARD, Chairman.

On motion, discussion of above report was suspended for preaching by Rev. A. D. Fikes, who preached a short but interesting sermon from the 4th chapter of I. Thessalonians, 10th verse.

Adjourned one hour to partake of dinner.

At the expiration of the time given, the delegates reassembled in the house, the Moderator in the chair. The body resumed business. The discussion of the report on Arrangement of Business was taken up, followed by several speeches. On motion, the discussion was closed and the report adopted.

Opened the door for correspondence, and on motion corresponded with Tuscaloosa, Mulberry and Harmony Associations:

Tuscaloosa—Rev F. M. Hobson, J. A. Shuttlesworth, and Rev. T. B. Sumner.

Mulberry—J. M. Greathouse, J. H. Deweese, and Rev. F. M. Hobson.

Harmony—R. Mathews:

Roll called and absentees marked thus, †.

Called for report on Sabbath schools, which was as follows:

In making this report, we have departed somewhat from the beaten paths of your former committees. The intention is to bring about more practical results along this line. Your committee has observed that where there is a church alive to their future happiness and spirituality, and trying to obey and follow their

Lord and Master in all his commands, and trying to live up to their duty as Christians, there you will invariably find a good and prosperous Sabbath school. Not formally striking at the shadow and missing the substance, but bringing up their children according to the admonition of Solomon, "Train up your child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." On the other hand, where churches are living in a cold or careless and indifferent state, you will rarely find a Sabbath school that amounts to anything more than a name. Your committee has observed that among such churches it is the rule that children go to Sabbath school to be taught the lesson—home study and training largely having fallen into disuse. This adds considerably to the work and responsibility of the teachers, and on their part calls for thorough preparation, earnest consecration and devotion to their duties. We are aware that it is difficult to find this kind of teachers in this association. If there was more earnest devotedness given to the cause of Sabbath schools by our pastors, we would be more apt to have good and efficient teachers, and the happiest results would emanate as a consequence. Respectfully submitted, J. H. DEWEESE, Chairman.

Discussion opened by Bro. C. T. Ragland, followed by Bros. J. A. Shuttlesworth, J. M. Greathouse, J. R. Wiggins, A. J. Mayfield, and L. A. Hester. Discussion closed, and, on motion, the report was received and adopted.

Called for report on Finance. The committee reported \$15.60 rec'd.

Called for report of Devotional Committee: The committee reported that Rev. F. M. Hobson preach to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

The report of the Committee on Missions reported :

Missions is a subject that a great deal has been said about and a great deal written upon. Yet many and very many of us are still anti-missionaries, and we should arouse from our lethargy and let our light shine and show what we are, for by our fruits are we known.

On motion, adjourned the discussion of above report until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Saturday morning, met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Shuttlesworth. The Moderator in the chair. The subject of missions was taken up, the discussion opened by Bro. A. J. Mayfield, followed by Bros. J. A. Shuttlesworth, Rev. T. B. Sumner, and J. H. Deweese. The discussion closed and the report was adopted.

A motion was made to take up a collection for missions to-day, at the close of the sermon.

Called for report on Education, and Rev. T. B. Sumner offered the following report.

Very Dear Brethren—Through your request I attempt to write upon the all-important subject of education. My short experience and brief observation unite in telling me that this is a day of educational improvement and enlightenment. Oh, brethren, oh, friends, let me, as one who loves you, urge upon you the necessity and importance of educating yourselves, and especially your children. Being poor and without means gives you but little excuse for illiteracy. In fact, education is surrounding you on every hand; education is knocking at your door. God

help us to bring ourselves and our children from darkness to light, and from ignorance to knowledge. Young men, we must educate; our friends and our associates are educating, and why not we? God grant that this association may be aroused upon this noble subject, is the humble prayer of T. B. Sumner.

On motion, the report was received and adopted. Discussion opened by Rev. T. B. Sumner, followed by Bros. A. D. Fikes, J. A. Shuttlesworth, and A. J. Greathouse.

The Temperance Committee made the following report :

The subject of temperance is one that has been before the Christian world for many years, and is one in which every Christian should be interested, but it is a sad fact that the importance of temperance is so much neglected by Baptists that many so-called good Baptists are found in a degraded state of intoxication. This should not be so. Baptists are accused by other denominations as being tipplers, and even of being drunkards. Now, let us, as Baptists, prove to the world that we are opposed to the monster that so often degrades our young men, makes orphans of our children, and broken-hearted widows of our wives. May the time speedily come when we, as a Baptist denomination, shall be known as a temperate people.

Respectfully submitted, S. P. SUMNER.

The opening speech was made by Bro. S. P. Sumner, followed by Bros. J. M. Greathouse and A. J. Mayfield, after which, on motion, the report was received and adopted.

The Committee on Documents reported :

We find nothing of real interest to report. Mount Pleasant calls for the next association. Shady Grove calls for the next session, through her delegates. Nearly all the churches report good Sabbath schools, yet some have failed to mention them in their letters. We urge upon the clerks to mention Sabbath schools in their letters to the association. No one liberated, licensed, or ordained to preach since the last association.

T. B. SUMNER, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

The next session of this body will convene with the Shady Grove Church, on Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1899, about 18 miles south-east of Tuscaloosa, on the upper Marion road. Rev. A. D. Fikes to preach the introductory sermon; J. R. Wiggins, alt.

The next annual district meeting of this association will meet with Pine Flat Church, on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1899. Rev. A. D. Fikes to preach the introductory sermon; J. R. Wiggins, alternate. Subject for discussion: "Ought we Baptists to entertain those who preach corrupt doctrines, especially the Mormons." Opened by B. C. Latner.

A short recess was given, after which reassembled in the house for preaching by Rev. F. M. Hobson, 'who preached an interesting sermon, from II. Timothy, 2nd chapter, 2nd verse. His subject was "The Christian's Warfare." At the close of the sermon a collection was taken, and the result was, for missions, \$7.51; orphanage, \$5.76.

(Note—The amount reported by the association for orphanage was \$6.74, but on counting after arriving at home, Bro. Deweese found only \$5.76.—Clerk.)

Adjourned one hour for dinner, at the expiration of which time the delegates re-assembled in the house, the Moderator in the chair, and proceeded with business.

Appointed the following Committees to report at the next session:

On Sabbath Schools—A. J. Mayfield.

On Temperance—J. M. Greathouse.

On Missions—J. W. Caddell.

On Education—J. H. Deweese.

On motion, agreed not to have the minutes read, but instructed the clerk to revise and have 300 copies printed, and retain \$5 for services.

Resolved, That this association tender its most heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of South Sandy Church for the hospitality so abundantly extended to us, and for their kindness during our stay among them.

The association having completed the business, motioned to adjourn to meet at the time and place before stated. Bowed in prayer led by Bro. J. H. Deweese. Sung an appropriate hymn, extending to each other the parting hand, and the Spirit of the Living God was manifested by this people.

R. E. HOWARD,
Clerk.

F. M. HOBSON,
Moderator.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ARTICLE I We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2 We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's inability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8 We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe that our Lord and Master washed his disciples' feet; we ought to wash one another's feet.

11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

12. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of Presbytery.

13. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call a member to order at any time.

4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without permission of the Association, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subjects until the debates have been carried through.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

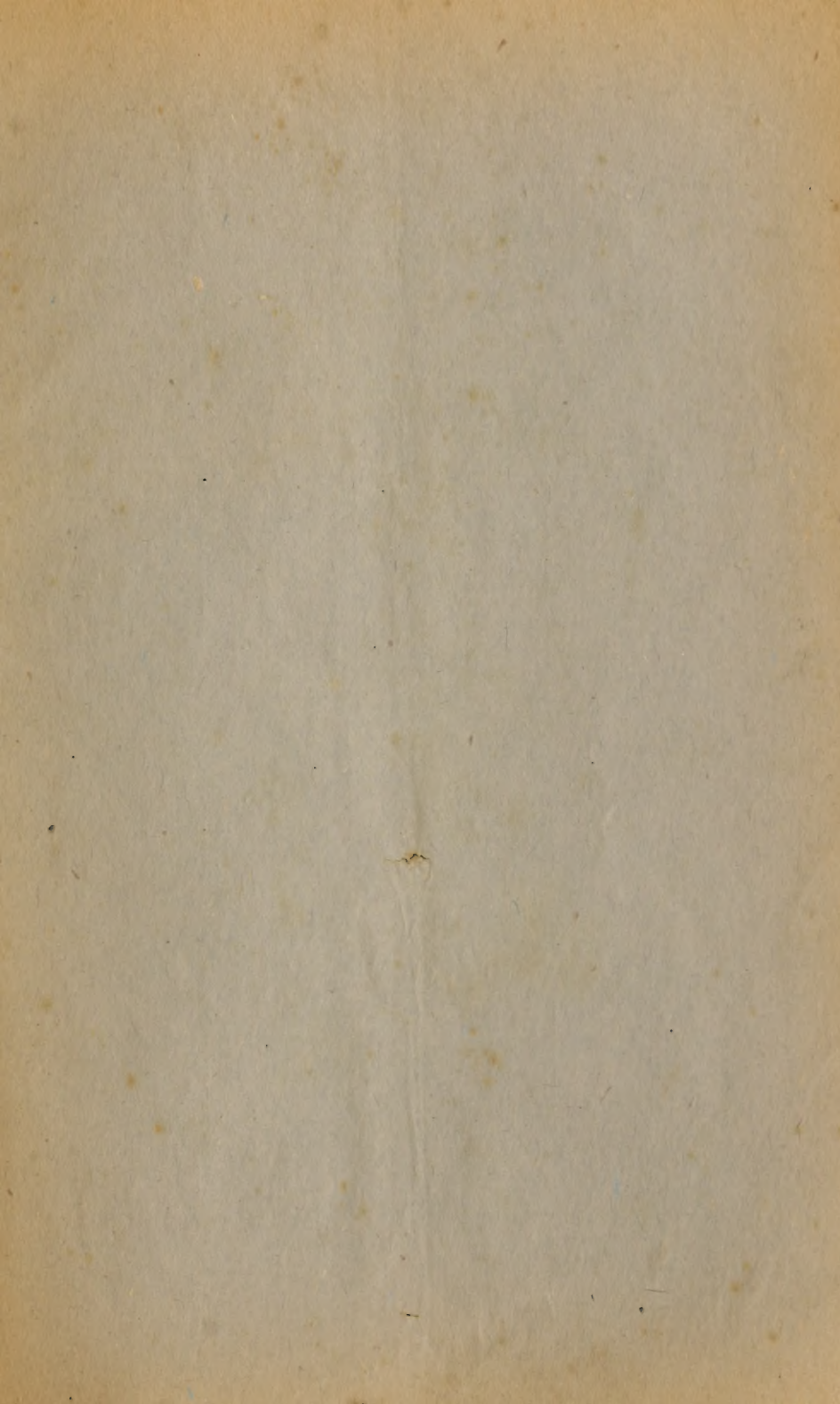
13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, as directed by the Association but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

17. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and shall be altered and amended when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P.O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P.O.	Baptized,	Rec'd by letter	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Died	Previous No.	Present No.	Money sent.
Haysop	W. G. Hubbard	Scottsville	B. J. Murphy	Scottsville	5					2	158	161	3 00
Liberty	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	J. Hobson	Hagler	7						62	69	1 50
Union	J. R. Wiggins	Data	J. M. Greathouse	Data							102	95	1 50
Mulberry			J. W. Caddell	Pondville	9	1	1				89	97	3 41
Spring Hill	M. Morrison, Jr.	Five Mile	O. Arnold, Jr.	Five Mile	2	3	6	1	2	104	99	99	90
Mt. Pleasant	J. R. Wiggins	Data	J. D. Geddy	Moundville	6	12	2	8	2	26	44	43	15
South Sandy	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	S. P. Sumner	Griffin	4	5				78	77	1	50
Pleasant Hill	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	C. W. Johnston			2	1	1		80	81	1	50
Pine Flat	T. B. Sumner	Griffin	B. C. Latner	Five Mile						2	47	45	95
Shady Grove	F. M. Hobson	Hagler	R. E. Howard	Duncanville		1					20	20	1 25